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[Home](#) > Resolution Advocates Biographical Information

Resolution Advocates Biographical Information

The following is a list of biographical information for the Resolution Advocates who have been selected to serve on the BDRP Panel. The background information was submitted by the applicants, and is provided without comment by the Court.

Not all panel members are willing to serve in all divisions. Please check the Resolution Advocates Availability list to select a Resolution Advocate and alternate in your area.

Items per page ▼

Apply

Sommers, Cheryl

Law Office of Cheryl L. Sommers

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Occupation: Attorney

Areas of Specialization: Accounting, Bankruptcy, Construction, Family Law, Landlord/Tenant, Mediation, Real Estate, Estates/Probate

Education: J.D. John F Kennedy University School of Law, Orinda California

ADR Training: Congress of Neutrals - 40 hours, Mediation Skills Training (2004); Congress of Neutrals -Mediation in Small Claims Actions (Contra Costa County).

Advocate Location(s): [Oakland](#), [San Francisco](#)

Spalasso, Kenneth R.

Sunnyvale Mediation

1669 Hollenbeck Ave. #2-260
Sunnyvale, CA 94087

Phone: (650) 520-7242

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Email: info@sunnyvalemediation.com

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Occupation: Attorney, Mediator

Areas of Specialization: Business, Commercial, Family, Landlord/Tenant, Personal Injury, Real Estate

Education: J.D. Santa Clara University School of Law

ADR Training: Over 100 hours Basic/Advanced Trainings: M.Schwartz 40 Hours; Temp Judge Settlement Conference Training, County of Santa Clara Trainings. County of Santa Clara Dispute Resolution Board, Santa Clara Superior Court ADR Panel; SCCBA Fee Arbitration Panel.

Advocate Location(s): [San Francisco](#), [San Jose](#)

Spector, Ross

Spector & Bennett

A Professional Corporation
50 California Street, 15th Floor
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Phone: (415) 439-5390

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ross.spector@spectorandbennett.com

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Occupation: Attorney

Areas of Specialization: Commercial, bankruptcy and secured transactions

Education: B.A. Economics, Tulane University, 1983; M.B.A., Tulane University, 1985; J.D., University of San Francisco, 1988

ADR Training: Straus Institute for Dispute Resolution, Pepperdine University School of Law

ADR Style: Caucus, collaborative, and facilitative (Evaluative where appropriate)

Advocate Location(s): [Oakland](#), [San Francisco](#), [Santa Rosa](#)

Sternberg, David

David M. Sternberg & Associates

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Website: www.davidsternberg-law.com

Occupation: Attorney

Areas of Specialization: Bankruptcy Law Specialist certified by the California State Bar. I have also focused on real estate and business litigation in state court. I am a licensed real estate broker and pilot.

Education: B.A. Economics, Antioch College, Ohio, 1974 (B.A. Economics); J.D., Golden Gate University, 1980; Sangamon State University, 1994 (T.A. Education)

ADR Training: 40 hours Mediation Training, Steven Rosenberg (2003) and Continuing Legal Education with Steven Rosenberg and other CLE.

ADR Style: I am evaluative and allow the parties to stay together as long as it is productive.

Advocate Location(s): [Oakland](#), [San Francisco](#)

Stomel, Alan

Alan J. Stomel, A Law Corporation

P.O. Box 1457
Bodega Bay, CA 94923

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Occupation: Attorney

Areas of Specialization: Bankruptcy

Education: JD Loyola Law School 1986; LLM Vrije University Brussels 2011

ADR Training: 40 hours, Pepperdine Mediation Certificate

ADR Style: All methods used, depends on the parties.

Advocate Location(s): [Oakland](#), [San Francisco](#), [Santa Rosa](#)

Spoken Languages: Spanish, Hebrew

File:  [Resume: Alan Stomel](#)

Stoneking, Keith

P.O. Box 1151
Sausalito, CA 94966

Phone: (415) 332-3064
Fax: (415) 289-0893
Email: kcscpa@comcast.net

Occupation: CPA/Mediator

Areas of Specialization: Family law, Fraud, Real Estate, Construction, Tax, Business Valuation

Education: B.S., University of California - Long Beach, 1969; M.B.A., Golden Gate University, 1978

ADR Training: For years 2004 & 2005: 64.5 Hours American Bar Association Dispute Resolution, Collaborative Council of The Redwood Empire, Sacramento Collaborative Practice Group. Prior Years: 12 hrs. CA Society of CPAs, 40 hours - Steve Rosenberg

ADR Style: "Depending on the parties; I have used the following in various mediations: caucus, collaborative, evaluative, and facilitative. In some cases I needed to use each of the styles to varying degrees or in other cases I needed to use only one or two of the styles."

Advocate Location(s): [Oakland](#), [San Francisco](#), [Santa Rosa](#)

Stuppi, Craig

Law Office of Stuppi & Stuppi
1630 North Main Street, Suite 332
Walnut Creek, CA 94596

Phone: (415) 786-4465
Fax: (925) 287-8113
Email: craig@stuppilaw.com

Occupation: Attorney

Education: B.A., University of California, Santa Barbara - 1968; J.D., Stanford University School of Law - 1971

ADR Training: U.S. Bankruptcy Court (Rosenberg - 20 hrs)

ADR Style: "Caucus, Collaborative, Facilitative. Will also do settlement facilitation and early neutral evaluation."

Advocate Location(s): [Oakland](#), [San Francisco](#), [San Jose](#), [Santa Rosa](#)

Sugarman, Randy

Sugarman & Company LLP
500 Sansome Street, Suite 600

Phone: (415) 395-7501
Fax: (415) 658-2858

San Francisco, CA 94111

Email: rsugarman@sugarman-company.com

Occupation: CPA

Areas of Specialization: Litigation, damages, fiduciary and bankruptcy

Education: B.A., Stanford University, 1965; M.B.A., Stanford University 1967

ADR Training: 40 hours - State Bar Association; Involved as an expert in at least five mediations in the past five years. Served as an expert for Coley Fannin and for Hon. Daniel H. Hanlon (ret.), Special Master for Federal Judge Jeremy Fogel and Judge Edward Chen. Acted as mediator and forensic accountant for SobercaRanches

ADR Style: Listening and understanding both sides of the issue.

Advocate Location(s): [Oakland](#), [San Francisco](#), [San Jose](#), [Santa Rosa](#)

Sullivan, Christopher D.

Diamond McCarthy LLP

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San Francisco, CA 94111

Phone: (415) 692-5200

Fax: (415) 263-5200

Email: csullivan@diamondmccarthy.com

Occupation: Partner, Diamond McCarthy LLP, San Francisco

Areas of Specialization: Complex & High-Stakes Litigation Bankruptcy, Third Party & Professional Liability

Education: University of California, Hastings College of Law (J.D., magna cum laude, 1990); Order of the Coif; Editor-in-Chief, Hastings Law Journal (1989-90); University of Massachusetts, Amherst (B.A., 1985).

ADR Training: More than forty hours through Northern District of California ADR Panel

ADR Style: Prefer initial caucus sessions but am flexible. I will be directive and evaluative if I believe it will help the parties resolve the case.

Advocate Location(s): [Oakland](#), [San Francisco](#), [San Jose](#), [Santa Rosa](#)

Spoken Languages: Portuguese

File:  [Resume: Christopher D. Sullivan](#)

Tiemstra, James

Law Offices of James A. Tiemstra

1111 Broadway Suite 1501
Oakland, CA 94607

Phone: (510) 987-8000**Fax:** (510) 987-8001**Email:** jat@tiemlaw.com**Occupation:** Attorney**Education:** B.A., Lawrence University, 1977; J.D., Golden Gate University, School of Law, 1980**ADR Training:** U.S. Bankruptcy Court Training (Yeend) - 6 hours; (Rosenberg) - 18 hours.**ADR Style:** "I use a collaborative approach to facilitate settlement generally involving a caucus with each side."**Advocate Location(s):** [Oakland](#), [San Francisco](#), [San Jose](#), [Santa Rosa](#)**File:**  [Resume: James Tiemstra](#)

Pages

[« first](#)[< previous](#)[1](#)[2](#)[3](#)[4](#)**5**[6](#)[next >](#)[last »](#)

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